



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (D-85) in Support of HB 6320 AAC Humane Education
Before the Education Committee February 23, 2011

I support this bill which is similar to a proposal that many of us and the Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate supported in prior sessions in the Environment Committee. The purpose is to provide in-service training in humane education for teachers which can become part of the menu of choices that teachers use to improve classroom performance. Humane education or character education as it is called in some states, brings lessons of empathy and compassion to students and has been found to improve classroom performance and reduce the need for disciplinary action among students exposed to this curriculum.

The cost of adding humane education as an in-service training option should be non-existent if the school district accepts existing materials from non-profit organizations as described in the bill. Whether teachers choose to take advantage of the training is up to them. I urge the committee to support this measure which should have a positive impact on student behavior and performance based on the experience of other northeast states, particularly New Jersey.